

REMARKS

With the entry of the present amendments, claims 1-22, 24, 27-31, 33, and 37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-17 have been allowed. Claims 25, 26, 32, and 34-36 have been canceled. Claims 18-22, 24, 29-31, and 33 have been amended. New claim 37 has been added. Claim 23 was canceled in a response to the previous Office Action.

As discussed below, the present amendments place all of the pending claims in the application in condition for allowance.

I. OBJECTION TO CLAIM 25 UNDER 37 CFR § 1.75(c)

Claim 25 was objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. With the entry of the present amendments, Claim 25 has been canceled, rendering this objection moot. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request this objection be withdrawn.

II. OBJECTION TO CLAIM 33 AS BEING DEPENDENT UPON A REJECTED BASE CLAIM.

Claim 33 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, in paragraph 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of Claim 20, from which it depends.

In compliance with the Examiner's suggestion, Claim 33 has now been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent Claim 20 as previously presented. In making this amendment, Applicants omitted the phrase "integrated into the polymeric substrate" since the Examiner has taken the position that this limitation does not add patentable weight to the claim. (Office Action at paragraph 16)

By way of clarification, Applicants note that paragraph 6 of the Office Action lists Claim 33 as rejected, contrary to the Examiner's statements in paragraph 11 of the Office Action.

Applicants thank Examiner Bissett for taking the time to discuss this matter in our telephone call of January 17, 2006. In that telephone call Examiner Bissett acknowledged that Claim 33 should not have been listed as rejected in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

Therefore, in light of the present amendments to Claim 33, Applicants submit that this claim is now in condition for allowance and request that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 18-20, 21, 24-26, 29-32, AND 34-36 UNDER 35 USC § 102(b) AS ANTICIPATED BY BAKER ET AL.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Claims 18-20, 21, 24-26, 29-32, and 34-36 are listed as rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Baker et al.

In a telephone conversation with Examiner Bissett on January 17, 2006, Examiner Bissett acknowledged that Claim 20 should not have been listed as rejected over Baker et al., in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

With the entry of the present amendments, the remaining claims listed as rejected in paragraph 4 of the Office Action (Claims 18-19, 21, 24-26, 29-32, and 34-36) have either been amended to depend from Claim 20 or have been canceled. In view of these claim amendments and cancellations, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the remaining claims in the application are now patentable over Baker et al., and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 18-22, 24-25, and 27-31 UNDER 35 USC § 102(b) AS ANTICIPATED BY SELIFANOV ET AL.

Claims 18-22, 24-25, and 27-31 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Selifanov et al. Claim 26 was not rejected as anticipated by Selifanov et al. With the entry of the present amendments, independent Claim 20 has been amended to include all of the limitations of dependent Claim 26 as originally filed. The remaining rejected claims (Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, and 27-31) have either been amended such that they depend from Claim 20 or have been canceled. In light of these amendments and cancellations, Applicants respectfully submit that all

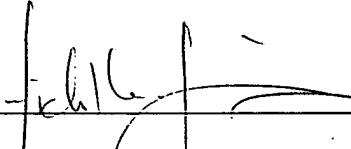
of the remaining claims are now patentable over Selifanov et al. For this reason Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the application are now in condition for allowance. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw all of the rejections and allow the application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is thought that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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